

IOWA BOARD OF NURSING

In RE: Petition for Declaratory Ruling)	Declaratory Ruling No. 54
Filed by Kalyann Wenck)	Delegation of Oxygen
May 22, 1991)	Administration in Residential
)	Care Facilities

A petition for declaratory ruling was filed with the Iowa Board of Nursing by Kalyann Wenck on May 22, 1991. Our interpretation of the question presented was:

Can a nurse employed by New Hope Village ICF/MR, with a physician's order, delegate oxygen administration (including disconnecting and reconnecting the tubing from portable tank to stationary tank, placement of nasal cannula and adjusting the flow of liters) to a medication manager employed in an RCF/MR group home providing nurses are available at the main facility for consultation 24 hours a day?

The Board is authorized to issue declaratory rulings "as to the applicability of any statutory provision, rule, or other written statement of law or policy, decision or order of the agency" pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.9 (1989). See also Iowa Administrative Code, Nursing Board [655], Chapter 9.

Additional facts leading to this request are as follows:

1. New Hope Village is an ICF/MR and RCF/MR facility with nursing staff on duty 24 hours per day in the ICF/MR.
2. The RCF/MR consists of cottages at the main facility site and off campus group homes approximately five minutes away from the ICF/MR.
3. There is always a nurse on call who could respond to emergencies.
4. The specific client concerned in this petition is a college graduate who is mentally capable of verbalizing all the

procedures related to his oxygen therapy but is physically incapable of performing the necessary psychomotor skills.

5. The specific client concerned in this petition is capable of maintaining without oxygen therapy for a period of one hour.

6. Historically the Board considers oxygen to be a medication administered by licensed nurses.

Rationale

The Iowa Board of Nursing considers the administration of oxygen to be a nursing function. The procedure requires the knowledge and skills of a licensed nurse. However, due to the particular facts and circumstances in this case, a nurse employed by New Hope Village may delegate oxygen administration to a medication manager employed in an RCF/MR group home provided:

1. Nurses are available to the medication manager 24 hours per day for consultation.

2. The licensed nurse provides for the medication manager's inservice education and the nurse observes a successful return demonstration of the tasks being performed. Documentation of the same occurs in the medication manager's personnel file.

3. Annual observation of skills is performed by the licensed nurse with documentation in the medication manager file.

The licensed nurse shall retain full accountability for actions delegated.

Lorinda K. Inman
Lorinda K. Inman, R.N., M.S.N.
Executive Director
Iowa Board of Nursing

June 20, 1991
Date

Marjorie M. Matzen
Marjorie M. Matzen, R.N., M.S.
Chairperson
Iowa Board of Nursing

June 20, 1991
Date